

ROASTING SYSTEM

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 An apparatus and method of roasting foodstuff such
as coffee beans employ a roasting chamber for roasting the
beans. An air circulation system operatively coupled with the
chamber flows heated air over the beans and thereby roasts the
beans, and an air cleaning arrangement is operatively coupled
10 with the air circulation system and located downstream of the
chamber for removing substantially all particulates, smoke and
volatiles entrained in the used air as it flows through the
container and into the air cleaning arrangement to provide
substantially pollutant-free used air. The circulation system
15 uses atmospheric air and heats, cleans and cools it within as
little as 1/4 second. Sensors and a electronic controller are
provided to monitor various parameters in the roasting
apparatus and control the roasting characteristics. The
darkness and/or color of the beans during roasting is
20 monitored to ensure proper roasting. The roasting in roasting
machines at a plurality of geographically separate locations
is controlled by equipping each roasting machine with a
computer with memory and providing a central control station
for downloading control signals to the computer to control
roasting.